



COLORADO SHEEP AND LAMB LOSSES -- 2007

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Colorado farmers and ranchers lost 42,000 head of sheep and lambs to all causes in 2007, representing a total value of \$4.49 million, according to a survey conducted in January 2008 by the Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service. A comparable survey for 2005 indicated that 38,000 head of all sheep and lambs, valued at \$4.14 million, were lost from all causes. The number of head lost was up 10 percent from 2005. The total inventory of all sheep and lambs at the beginning of 2008 was 420,000 head, up 15 percent from the total inventory of 365,000 head at the beginning of 2006. The beginning inventory of 190,000 in 2008 for the head of breeding sheep and lambs stayed the same as 2006 and the inventory of market sheep and lambs, at 230,000 head, was up 15 percent from 200,000 head. The 2007 lamb crop totaled 180,000 head, up 2 percent from the 2005 lamb crop. Total sheep and lamb death losses in 2007 accounted for 6.9 percent of the available supply of animals during the year, unchanged from 2005.

Predators caused an estimated \$2.44 million in losses of sheep and lambs during 2007 compared with a value of \$1.58 million in 2005. They accounted for 23,800 head (57 percent of all losses) in 2007 compared with 14,600 head (38 percent of all losses) in 2005. Predator losses represented 3.9 percent of the available supply in 2007, up from the 2.6 percent of the sheep and lamb supply in 2005. Lamb losses by all predators amounted to 18,900 head in 2007 compared to 12,300 head in the previous year. Coyotes, the most damaging predator, were responsible for 52 percent (9,900 head valued at \$857,300) of the lamb losses to predators and 32 percent of all lamb losses. Bears were the next most damaging predator claiming a total of 6,100 head of lambs and loss value of \$528,300. Bears and coyotes were also the primary predators on sheep, with coyotes killing 2,200 sheep, and bears killing 1,800 sheep for a combined loss value of \$657,300. Foxes and mountain lions killed 2,200 head of sheep and lambs valued at \$221,600 during 2007. Eighty-two percent of all predator losses occurred in the Northwest & Mountain and Southwest Districts where all of the major predators were active. Most of the state's losses from eagles and bobcats were in those two areas. Coyotes and dogs were the major predators in the Northeast District where most of the commercial feedlots are located. Mountain lions and dogs caused the major loss of sheep and lambs from predators in the Southwest, San Luis Valley, and in the Southeast Districts.

The total value of sheep and lamb losses from **non-predator causes** was estimated at \$2.05 million in 2007, down 20 percent from \$2.56 million in 2005. Non-predator losses of 18,200 head in 2007 represented 43 percent of all losses, down from 23,400 head (62 percent) in 2005. Total Diseases accounted for the loss of 4,800 head of sheep and lambs in 2007, down from 11,600 head in 2005. Weather was the most damaging factor in sheep and lamb losses at 4,900 head (12 percent), compared to 1,800 head (5 percent) in 2005. Almost 74 percent of all non-predator losses occurred in the Northwest & Mountain, Northeast and Southwest Districts. Nearly 26 percent, down from 54 percent in 2005, of the non-predator losses occurred in the Northeast District where disease and weather related problems are the major cause of loss in the state's commercial feedlots.

SHEEP & LAMBS: Inventory, Death Losses, and Value of Losses, Colorado, 2000-2007 1/

Year	January 1 Inventory		Death Losses					
			Sheep	All Lambs			All Sheep & Lambs	
	All Sheep & Lambs	Lamb Crop	Total Losses	Before Docking	After Docking	All Lambs	Total Loss	Percent of Supply <u>2/</u>
	1,000 Head			1,000 Head				Percent
2000	440	200	9	14	30	44	53	8.1
2002	370	200	13	16	30	46	59	10.1
2004	360	165	5	9	19	28	33	6.2
2005	365	175	6	10	22	32	38	6.9
2007	420	180	11	12	19	31	42	6.9

	Total Sheep & Lamb Losses By Cause				Value Of Losses		
Year	Predator Losses		Non-Predator Losses				
	Total Loss	Percent of Supply <u>2/</u>	Non-Predator	Percent of Supply <u>2/</u>	Predator	Non-Predator	Total
	1,000 Head	Percent	1,000 Head		1,000 Dollars		
2000	19.5	3.0	33.5	5.1	1,492.5	2,523.0	4,015.5
2002	28.0	4.8	31.0	5.3	2,076.5	2,197.5	4,274.0
2004	15.3	2.9	17.7	3.3	1,490.0	1,735.0	3,225.0
2005	14.6	2.6	23.4	4.3	1,579.5	2,558.5	4,138.0
2007	23.8	3.9	18.2	3.0	2,441.8	2,050.3	4,492.1

1/ No survey was conducted covering 2001, 2003, or 2006. 2/ Supply includes sheep and lambs on hand January 1 plus lamb crop plus lamb losses before docking.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: Number of Head and Value of Loss by Cause, Colorado, 2005 and 2007 1/

Cause	Sheep				Lambs				Total Sheep & Lambs			
	No. Lost		Value		No. Lost		Value		No. Lost		Value	
	2005	2007	2005	2007	2005	2007	2005	2007	2005	2007	2005	2007
Predators:	1,000 Head		\$1,000		1,000 Head		\$1,000		1,000 Head		\$1,000	
Bear	0.7	1.8	109.0	295.8	1.6	6.1	160.8	528.3	2.3	7.9	269.8	824.1
Bobcat	...	.3	...	49.3	0.3	...	33.7	...	0.3	.3	33.7	49.3
Coyote	1.3	2.2	181.6	361.5	7.8	9.9	783.5	857.3	9.1	12.1	965.1	1,218.8
Dog	0.2	.1	32.0	16.4	0.9	.4	89.8	34.6	1.1	.5	121.8	51.0
Eagle	...	...	...	...	0.4	.2	38.7	17.3	0.4	.2	38.7	17.3
Fox	...	...	...	...	0.6	.8	56.5	69.3	0.6	.8	56.5	69.3
Mountain Lion	0.1	.4	17.5	65.7	0.3	1.0	36.5	86.6	0.4	1.4	54.0	152.3
Other Predators <u>2/</u>	...	.1	...	16.4	0.4	.5	39.7	43.3	0.4	.6	39.7	59.7
Total Predators	2.3	4.9	340.2	805.1	12.3	18.9	1,239.2	1,636.7	14.6	23.8	1,579.4	2,441.8
Non-Predators:												
Diseases	0.4	.8	55.1	131.5	11.2	4.0	1,135.0	346.4	11.6	4.8	1,190.1	477.9
Weather related	0.1	.8	16.3	131.5	1.7	4.1	173.9	355.1	1.8	4.9	190.2	486.6
Lambing problems	0.4	1.2	64.5	197.2	2.7	2.2	268.3	190.5	3.1	3.4	332.8	387.7
Old age	1.6	1.7	253.7	279.3	...	...	...	...	1.6	1.7	253.7	279.3
Poisoning	0.5	.6	82.6	98.6	0.8	.6	80.9	52.0	1.3	1.2	163.5	150.6
Theft	...	...	...	...	0.1	.2	12.2	17.3	0.1	.2	12.2	17.3
Other causes <u>3/</u>	0.7	1.0	93.6	164.3	3.2	1.0	322.4	86.6	3.9	2.0	416.0	250.9
Total Non-Predators	3.7	6.1	565.8	1,002.4	19.7	12.1	1,992.7	1,047.9	23.4	18.2	2,558.5	2,050.3
Total All Causes	6.0	11.0	906.0	1,807.5	32.0	31.0	3,232.0	2,684.6	38.0	42.0	4,138.0	4,492.1

1/ Sheep value is based on a two year average value per head of ewes 1 year old and older. Lamb value is based on the marketing year average price received for a 90 pound lamb. Survey was not conducted in 2006. Totals may not add due to rounding. 2/ Includes ravens, vultures, wolves and unknown predators 3/ Includes unknown non-predator losses.

SHEEP AND LAMBS:

Percent of Head Loss Within Each Agricultural Statistics District, by Type of Predator, Colorado, 2007 1/

	Agricultural Statistics District						
Cause	NW & Mountain	Northeast	East Central	Southwest	San Luis Valley	Southeast	State
Predators:	Percent						
Bear	77.9	...	...	18.2	3.9	...	100.0
Bobcat	100.0	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Coyote	61.2	16.5	3.3	12.4	4.9	1.7	100.0
Dog	20.0	20.0	...	20.0	20.0	20.0	100.0
Eagle	100.0	...	...	...	...	...	100.0
Fox	80.0	10.0	...	10.0	...	...	100.0
Mountain Lion	18.2	9.1	...	63.6	...	9.1	100.0
Other Predators <u>2/</u>	50.0	12.5	12.5	12.5	12.5	...	100.0
Total Predators	65.1	10.1	2.1	16.4	4.6	1.7	100.0

1/ Includes all lamb losses both before and after docking.

2/ Includes ravens, vultures, wolves and unknown predators.

SHEEP AND LAMBS:

Percent of Head Loss Within Each Agricultural Statistics District, by Non-predator Causes, Colorado, 2007 1/

	Agricultural Statistics District						
Cause	NW & Mountain	Northeast	East Central	Southwest	San Luis Valley	Southeast	State
Non-Predators:	Percent						
Total Diseases	25.5	42.6	2.1	12.8	12.8	4.2	100.0
Weather related causes	5.8	36.5	19.2	13.5	7.7	17.3	100.0
Lambing problems	24.2	9.1	6.1	39.4	6.1	15.1	100.0
Old age	43.0	7.1	7.1	28.6	7.1	7.1	100.0
Poisoning	66.6	6.7	6.7	20.0	...	...	100.0
Theft	...	...	...	100.0	...	...	100.0
Other non-predators <u>2/</u>	31.5	15.8	5.3	36.8	5.3	5.3	100.0
Total Non-Predators	24.7	25.8	8.8	23.1	7.7	9.9	100.0

1/ Includes all lamb losses both before and after docking.

2/ Includes unknown non-predator causes.

SHEEP AND LAMBS: Percent of Head Loss by Cause and Size of Flock, Colorado, 2005-2007 1/

Cause	Stock Sheep Operations by Size of Flock						Commercial Feedlots		All Sizes	
	1 - 99		100 - 500		500 Plus					
	2005	2007	2005	2007	2005	2007	2005	2007	2005	2007
Predators:	Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent		Percent	
Bear	3.4	0.3	6.7	4.3	9.8	21.9	...	...	6.3	11.7
Bobcat	...	...	...	0.2	1.7	0.9	...	...	0.9	0.5
Coyote	17.4	34.6	21.8	16.5	31.8	23.1	5.1	1.3	23.4	18.7
Dog	7.3	2.2	4.4	1.9	2.8	0.4	0.7	0.1	2.8	0.8
Eagle	...	...	0.1	0.3	1.8	0.6	...	...	1.0	0.4
Fox	0.8	0.2	1.7	1.6	1.7	2.2	...	.3	1.2	1.4
Mountain Lion	1.3	1.7	4.4	2.8	1.3	2.5	...	...	1.3	1.8
Other Predators <u>2/</u>	0.7	2.5	1.0	11.2	1.7	7.5	...	1.3	1.1	5.8
Total Predators	30.8	41.5	40.1	38.8	52.6	59.1	5.8	3.0	38.0	41.0
Non-Predators:										
Diseases	13.7	6.3	16.3	11.4	21.6	5.8	77.0	76.8	33.1	23.5
Weather related	8.5	17.1	9.1	12.3	5.0	4.3	2.0	10.9	5.0	8.5
Lambing problems	19.4	12.6	14.8	6.9	7.2	6.2	...	...	7.5	5.7
Old age	6.6	2.8	7.2	5.4	3.4	2.6	...	...	3.4	2.3
Poisoning	1.5	1.5	0.3	0.6	3.6	3.5	...	...	2.2	2.1
Theft	1.4	...	2.1	...	...	0.9	...	...	0.4	0.5
Other non-predators <u>3/</u>	18.1	18.2	10.3	24.6	6.6	17.6	15.2	9.3	10.4	16.5
Total Non-Predators	69.2	58.5	59.9	61.2	47.4	40.9	94.2	97.0	62.0	59.0
Total All Causes	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

1/ Includes lambs before and after docking. Survey was not conducted in 2006. 2/ Includes ravens, vultures, wolves and unknown predators. 3/ Includes unknown non-predator causes.